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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 28 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith the joint statement of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan) (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 96.

(Signed) Talaibek Kydyrov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 April 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Kyrgyzstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia

The Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, the States parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, signed in Semipalatinsk on 8 September 2006 and in force since 21 March 2009, note with satisfaction that on 6 May 2014, in New York, representatives of the five nuclear-weapon States signed the Protocol to that Treaty concerning negative security assurances.

The States parties to the Treaty unequivocally undertook not to allow the production, acquisition, stationing, storage or use of any nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive device in their respective territories.

The creation of this zone constituted an important step towards promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the environmental rehabilitation of territories affected by radioactive contamination and pollution. In this connection, we draw attention to United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/218 on the role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia. The Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone is an effective contribution to combating international nuclear terrorism and preventing nuclear materials and technologies from falling into the hands of non-State actors, primarily terrorists.

The States of the zone have adopted a plan of action for strengthening nuclear security, preventing the proliferation of nuclear materials and combating nuclear terrorism in Central Asia. In addition, a multilateral treaty on cooperation in preventing illicit trafficking in nuclear materials and combating nuclear terrorism in Central Asia is being drafted.

With the signing of the Semipalatinsk Treaty, the vast region in the heart of the Eurasian continent permanently became a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The States of the Central Asian nuclear-weapon-free zone have thus made a vital contribution to the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and of regional and global security.

We call upon the five nuclear-weapon States, which are parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to ratify the Protocol expeditiously, as it will complete the process of institutionalizing the zone and significantly improve the level of mutual trust and security. The States parties to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia welcome the ratification of the Protocol to that Treaty, concerning negative security assurances, by the French Republic, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

We believe that that this will represent a substantial joint contribution by the five Central Asian States and the five nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to the process of nuclear disarmament, the strengthening of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, towards the ideals of a nuclear-weapon-free world.